Listing of the Claims:

1 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus of named entities ~~giving an evaluation value to named entities~~ included in a document comprising:

a document weight calculation section which defines a mutual relevance among a plurality of documents including the named entities as an object to <u>judge a significance</u> ~~be given the evaluation value~~, and calculating ~~the~~ weight ~~value~~ <u>values</u> of said each document based on the relevance ~~concerned~~ <u>whereby the documents having less mutual relation are given the higher weight value</u>; and

an evaluation value calculation section calculating ~~the~~ <u>an</u> evaluation value of said named entities by carrying out ~~the~~ <u>a</u> calculation ~~processing~~ <u>process</u> using the weight value of said each document<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the significance of the named entities is judged based on the evaluation value</u>.

2 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of documents is managed under ~~a~~ <u>at least one</u> tree structure, and said document weight calculation section defines said relevance between respective documents corresponding to ~~the~~ existing ~~location~~ <u>locations</u> of said each document in ~~said~~ <u>same or different</u> tree ~~structure~~ <u>structures</u>.

3 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said document weight calculation section increases or decreases the weight value of ~~one~~ <u>a first</u> document and ~~the other one~~ <u>a second</u> document corresponding to the number of nodes of

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the tree structure common to the ~~one~~ <u>first</u> document ~~concerned~~ and the ~~other one~~ <u>second</u> document ~~concerned~~.

4 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said document weight calculation section increases or decreases the weight value of ~~one~~ <u>a first</u> document and ~~the other one~~ <u>a second</u> document corresponding to the number of branches of the tree structure existing between the ~~one~~ <u>first</u> document ~~concerned~~ and the ~~other one~~ <u>second</u> document ~~concerned~~.

5 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein if ~~one~~ <u>a</u> <u>first</u> document and ~~the other one~~ <u>a second</u> document are managed under ~~the~~ different trees, said document weight calculation section maximizes ~~or minimizes~~ the weight value of the ~~one~~ <u>first</u> document ~~concerned~~ and the ~~other one~~ <u>second</u> document ~~concerned~~.

6 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said document weight calculation section defines the relevance between respective documents corresponding to ~~the~~ <u>a</u> reference relation between said respective documents.

7 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said document weight calculation section increases or decreases the weight value of ~~one~~ <u>a first</u> document and ~~the other one~~ <u>a second</u> document corresponding to whether or not there exists <u>a</u> ~~the~~ third document which directly or indirectly refers to both of the ~~one~~ <u>first</u> document ~~concerned~~ and the ~~other one~~ <u>second</u> document ~~concerned~~.

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8 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said

document weight calculation section increases or decreases the weight value of ~~one~~ a first

document and ~~the other one~~ a second document corresponding to whether or not the ~~one~~

first document ~~concerned~~ directly or indirectly refers to the ~~other one~~ second document

~~concerned~~.

9 (Currently Amended): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein if there

is no other ~~one~~ document referring to ~~one~~ a first document, said document weight

calculation section maximizes ~~or minimizes~~ the weight value of the ~~one~~ first document

~~concerned~~.

10 (Previously Presented): An evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further

comprising a document collection section collecting said plurality of document; and

a document relevance storage section storing the mutual relevance of the

documents collected by said document collection section.

11 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method of named entities ~~giving an evaluation~~

~~value to named entities~~ included in a document comprising:

a document weight calculation process defining a mutual relevance among a

plurality of documents including the named entities as an object to judge a significance

~~be given the evaluation value~~ and calculating ~~the~~ weight ~~value~~ values of said each

document based on the relevance ~~concerned~~ whereby the documents having less mutual

relation are given the higher weight value; ~~and~~

an evaluation value calculation process calculating ~~the~~ <u>an</u> evaluation value of said

named entities by carrying out ~~the~~ <u>a</u> calculation ~~processing~~ <u>process</u> using the weight

value of said each document<u>; and</u>

<u>a significance judge process judging a significance of the named entities based on</u>

<u>the evaluation value</u>.

12 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said

plurality of documents is managed under ~~a~~ <u>at least one</u> tree structure, and in said

document weight calculation process, the relevance between said respective documents is

defined corresponding to ~~the~~ existing ~~location~~ <u>locations</u> of said each document in ~~said~~

<u>same or different</u> tree ~~structure~~ <u>structures</u>.

13 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the

weight value of ~~one~~ <u>a first</u> document and ~~the other one~~ <u>a second</u> document is increased or

decreased corresponding to the number of nodes of the tree structure common to the ~~one~~

<u>first</u> document ~~concerned~~ and the ~~other one~~ <u>second</u> document ~~concerned~~.

14 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method claimed in claim 12, wherein the weight

value of ~~one~~ <u>a first</u> document and ~~the other one~~ <u>a second</u> document is increased or

decreased corresponding to the number of branches of the tree structure existing between

the ~~one~~ <u>first</u> document ~~concerned~~ and the ~~other one~~ <u>second</u> document ~~concerned~~.

15 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein if ~~one~~ <u>a</u>

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first document and ~~the other one~~ a second document are managed under ~~the~~ different trees, the weight value of the ~~one~~ first document ~~concerned~~ and the ~~other one~~ second document ~~concerned~~ is maximized ~~or minimized~~.

16 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 11, wherein in the document weight calculation process, the relevance between respective documents is defined corresponding to ~~the~~ a reference relation between said respective documents.

17 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the weight value of ~~one~~ a first document and ~~the other one~~ a second document is increased or decreased corresponding to whether or not there exists a ~~the~~ third document which directly or indirectly refers to both of the ~~one~~ first document ~~concerned~~ and the ~~other one~~ second document ~~concerned~~.

18 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the weight value of ~~one~~ a first document and ~~the other one~~ a second document is increased or decreased corresponding to whether or not the ~~one~~ first document ~~concerned~~ directly or indirectly refers to the ~~other one~~ second document ~~concerned~~.

19 (Currently Amended): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 16, wherein if there is no other ~~one~~ document referring to ~~one~~ a first document, the weight value of the ~~one~~ first document ~~concerned~~ becomes maximum ~~or minimum~~.

20 (Previously Presented): An evaluation method as claimed in claim 11 further comprising a document collection process collecting said plurality of document; and

a document relevance storage process storing the mutual relevance of the documents collected in said document collection process,

wherein said document collection process and said document relevance storage process are carried out at least before said document weight calculation process.